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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 FEBRUARY 1998

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

HISTORY LANE EXHIBIT AT BRIARWOOD BIGGER, BETTER

The Washtenaw and Ypsilanti Historical Societies were again invited by Briarwood Mall Management to display artifacts and sell goods at History Lane from November 21 through December 28.

Last year the exhibit was only open weekends. This year we were asked to keep regular daily mall hours.

For History Lane, Briarwood Mall constructed store fronts depicting long-gone businesses in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Inside were displayed a set of dinner dishes, a corset made by the Crescent Corset Company that used to be on South Main Street; many toys and, in the front window, WCHS's doll house built by Lewis Hodges.

Photo by Judy Chrisman

The exhibit at Briarwood included this 19th century bride's gown on left with picture of bride and some dishes from the Philip Bach family. Philip was a prominent Ann Arbor dry goods merchant, mayor (1858) and longtime member of the school board with a school named for him still functioning.

IN A CLASS BY HERSELF

The sign-up chart to staff the History Lane exhibits at Briarwood during mall hours from Saturday, November 22 through Sunday, December 28 had 97 mostly four hour time slots to fill.

The Society is most grateful to all 40 volunteers who helped fill them but one name stands out--Pauline Walters' name appears in 34 slots, all but eight of those by herself. In addition she opened each morning and had to figure the day's receipts and lock-up every other night. (Billie Zolkowski of Ypsilanti Historical Society alternated on that chore.)

There were many visitors to the exhibit which included old-fashioned shelves and counter of a turn-of-the-century store loaned by Bob Lyons from his fantastic collection of antique businesses. Included were a coffee grinder, computing scale (highest price 60 cents per pound) and an ancient National cash register.

Visitors were telling their children or others about how they remembered the crank telephone and party line, how the kerosene lamps had to be cleaned daily, how they remembered the products represented by the empty containers that filled the shelves.

The *Ann Arbor News*, co-sponsor of History Lane, donated remainders of two books they had published: *One Hundred-Fifty Years of History: The Ann Arbor News—1835-1985* and *Celebrating Our History: 160 Years of The Ann Arbor News*. Each was sold for $10 and the profit divided between the two Societies as were the remaining books not sold at History Lane. These books will be for sale at our monthly meetings.

In addition to the exhibits, both Societies sold items from their gift shops.

PATRICIA AUSTIN VOTED HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

The Washtenaw Historical Society Board of Directors voted to make Past-President Patricia Austin an honorary life member of the Society at its January 21 meeting.

Pat gave 19 years of dedicated service to the Society including five years as president and two years as treasurer before she resigned from the board last fall to pursue other interests.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS WHO STAFFED EXHIBIT

Forty WCHS volunteers filled mostly four-hour slots to staff the History Lane exhibit. Many thanks to Kerry Adams, Jeff Asbill, Betty Bishop, Lisa Black, Rosemarion Blake, Rosalyn Breitenwischer, Letitia Byrd, Judy Chrisman, Marjorie Cripps, Greg Defreytas, Angela DelVecchio, Marilyn Dickerson, Mitzi Dickson, Agnes Dikeman, Eunice Dobbs, Elizabeth Dusseau, Lucile Fisher, Al Girod, Andrew and Peggy Haines, Ina Hanel, Bets Hansen,, Mary Lirones, Nancy McAllister, Caroline Mohai, Roseann Morrow, Pam Newhouse, Andrew O'Neal, Karen O'Neal, Marjorie Reade, Ann Robinson, Arlene Schmid, Karen Simpson, Jay Snyder, Wystan Stevens, Roger and Mary Sutherland, Pauline Walters, Susan Wineberg and Alice Ziegler.

Helping set up and/or take down the exhibit were Judy Chrisman and her daughter, Heather, Kerry Adams, Nancy McKinney, Karen O'Neal, Patty Creal and Pauline Walters and the Creal and Walters vans.

PAM NEWHOUSE WILL SHARE GETTYSBURG RESEARCH AT FEBRUARY 15 MEETING

What was it like for a family whose farm was in the middle of the Civil War Gettysburg battlefield?

Pam Newhouse, who spent several weeks researching that question last summer at Gettysburg, will present her new research findings at the next WCHS meeting. Her topic is, *"The Codori Farm and Family in Civil War Gettysburg."*

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m., Sunday, February 15, at Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal on the University of Michigan North Campus.

Pam is a member of the WCHS Board of Directors and co-founder of the local Civil War Roundtable. She was the recipient of the 1997 Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg Summer Scholar Award.

The meeting is open to the public free of charge.

SHOPPING MALLS WILL BE WCHS TOPIC MARCH 15

The March 15 WCHS meeting about development of commercial strip malls will be held at Arborland, Ann Arbor's first shopping mall.

The Genealogical Society of
Washtenaw County, Mich., Inc.
P.O. Box 7155
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-7155

TIPS FOR PRESERVING FAMILY PHOTOS, HISTORY

"Lyrics of an old African folk song say that when an old person dies it's as if a library was burned down," Marianne Behler said in introducing her talk to the November WCHS audience.

Looking through her aunt's family photo album as a child first sparked her interest in preserving family photos and family history.

When her aunt went to a nursing home, Marianne would take her album when she went to visit. Each time they looked at it, Marianne would get more information from her aunt.

As an outgrowth of her own interest, Marianne, an Ann Arbor native, is now a Creative Memories instructor teaching classes on how to preserve photos safely, ways to tell your family story and create heirloom quality albums and offering photo-safe albums and supplies.

Creative Memories (CM), the company she represents, now ten years old, offers photo safe albums and supplies along with all the how-to at hands-on classes and workshops.

"Photos often end up in shoe boxes and envelopes," she noted. "People wonder if there is any help in organizing their photos and where do they begin.

"You'll feel less overwhelmed by sorting years of photos if you begin with the most recent ones first. Get this year's photos into the album and add new ones as you receive them.

"When you tackle the rest, sort by decades first, then by approximate years and put them into albums.

"My first advice is not to try to preserve photos in 'magnetic' albums. In those you put your precious pictures between sticky cardboard and plastic overlay.

"The plastic contains polyvinyl chloride (PVC). That's fine for webbing in our lawn furniture, but not to store photos. That type of album creates a gas sandwich that eats up our pictures.

"So, for some people, their very first project is to rescue their photos. That reminds me to talk about how to safely write on the backs of pictures."

She said her father had written on the back of pictures. "Now the impression of everything he wrote has come through and breaks down the emulsion layer of the pictures. CM offers a special pencil that is safe to use on the back of pictures.

"Don't let the story of each photo get lost. Write on it the event, who, what, when and where. You can take pictures off the wall too and record that information on the back.

"For intermediate storage, you can use clear plastic envelopes, if they contain no harmful acids, before making keepsake albums.

Albert Amon West (1845-1928)
Mr. West, a great-grandfather of our speaker, Marianne Behler, is one of the ancestors in her family history photo album. He was, himself, a grandson of Ebenezer and Elizabeth West who came to Ann Arbor in 1832 from New York state.

"You can be pretty sure that the inexpensive albums you find at local discount stores aren't safe. The magnetic type will yellow your pictures and eventually turn them to dust. Old-fashioned corners aren't safe either. Choose acid free pages and corners.

"The scrapbook photo album allows the greatest flexibility. You can document family history right on the scrapbook pages and display mementos right along with photos.

"People also have newspaper articles, children's art work or other things they want to put in.

"There are both permanent and non-permanent mounting choices that are safe. "For non-permanent she advised a safe type of corner or a sleeve. CM offers safe photo tape for permanent mounting.

"Heat, light and humidity will affect photos. They do not belong in attics or basements. Store them where you live--in living room, family room or den, preferably at a temperature range of 65-70 degrees. Don't pile them on top of one another. Albums of photos should be stored vertically.

"Historical photos should be black and white because they will last a lot longer. However, if you take black and white film to a regular photo finisher they will develop it on color paper with its shorter life." She recommended Ivory Photo for black and white work.

"Never put original newspaper clippings in the album because the paper contains acid and lignin. Copy the clipping on acid-free paper and mount with safe mounting tape."

The first album she made was a holiday album of recent pictures. As the family got bigger and moved away it was hard for all be together at one time. She wanted the albums to show her grandchildren.

She also made a postcard album. Her father had a collection of postcards, some dating from the turn of the 20th century. She did research on postcards at the library.

"A historical album is probably the most challenging and most rewarding type you can make for your family.

"Sharing family stories brings a family together and gives it a sense of identity. Also, the stories of your own past, your childhood, unless you share that part of your history, will be gone forever."

She recommended a couple of good beginner's books on interviewing family members to preserve family history. They are, *To Our Children's Children: Preserving Family History for Generations To Come by Bob Green and How To Outlive Your Lifetime* by Timothy W. Polk.

"The first has a whole series of questions to challenge us to not only interview other people but also to help us tell our own stories.

"The second also has lots of questions. It starts off with chapters on why do anything, how to delight your descendants, how to make your mark and how to do family research.

"People who have been doing genealogical research are probably beyond these but they are good for beginners.

For more information about classes and materials you may call Marianne Behler at (734) 662-5678 or write her at 1955 Pauline Blvd., Suite 150, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. She has offered to give an album to the Washtenaw County Historical Society when ten or more people from the Society attend one of her hands-on classes.

Workshops are scheduled: Wednesday February 11, Thursday, February 19, Wednesday March 4, Saturday, March 7 and Thursday March 19.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand-lettered certificates, framed if desired, are offered free of charge, by WCHS to organizations, businesses, churches, schools etc., for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

ARTIFACTS TO DONATE?

Anyone wishing to donate an artifact to WCHS may contact Judy Chrisman, collections chair, at 769-7859 or by mail, 1809 Dexter Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

1880 BIRDSEYE MAP, 1896 'HEADLIGHT' FOR SALE

The 1896 *"Headlight"* magazine reprint, picturing Ann Arbor 100 years ago and the 1880 birdseye map of Ann Arbor will be for sale at monthly meetings.

"Headlight" is $10 at meetings or by mail at an additional $3 charge for postage and handling. Maps will be available rolled and boxed for $10 plus $3 postage and handling.

Our Society sold about 200 reprints of *"Headlight"* at History Lane at Briarwood Mall during the holidays.

PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network will present its 18th annual conference, *"Of The People, By The People, For The People: Working With Government To Get The Jobs Done,"* April 3-4 in Lansing. Fee. Information: (248) 625-8181.

WCHS HAS 63% OF POINTS NEEDED FOR MEMORY BOOK

WCHS now has 12,787 Bill Knapp's Restaurant points, 63% of the 20,000 needed for a memory book to record names of donors to our Museum on Main Street.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time. One point is given for each dollar spent. Please give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

BOOK SHOW, FAIR APRIL 5

The 27th Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show and the 9th Genealogy and History Book Fair will both be held Sunday, April 5, at the new Lansing Center, three blocks east of the Capitol. Fee. Information: (517) 332-0112.

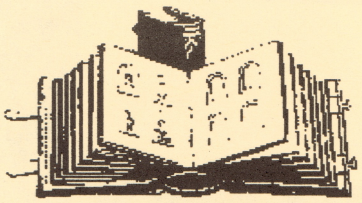


Photo by Judy Chrisman

Some toys on display in History Lane at Briarwood Mall during the holidays. Doll on right is named Miss Emily. She is seated in Orange Risdon's high chair. He surveyed the Chicago Road (Michigan Avenue) and founded Saline.

BOOK COMMITTEE GEARING UP AFTER HOLIDAY BREAK TO PRODUCE 'ANN ARBOR REVISITED' PHOTO BOOK

The Historical Society's Book Committee is again focusing its efforts to produce a book of Ann Arbor's history using photographs and a 'then and now' concept. The committee includes Judy Chrisman, Ina Hanel, Louisa Pieper, Marjorie Reade, Grace Shackman and Pauline Walters.

The concept is to use early photographs followed by additional photos showing subsequent uses of the site and/or building, including a current view. Small diagrams will be used to aid the reader in visualizing the location. Publication is expected in early fall, 1998.

Hazel Proctor, of Proctor Publications and past-president of the Society, will custom design the cover and layout and prepare the manuscript for publication. All the work of the committee and Proctor Publications is being donated. Printing 2,000 copies, however, will cost approximately $9,000 to $10,000. We are looking for a sponsor.

Readers, if you have any old photos that could be considered for use in the project, please call Pauline Walters at (734) 663-2379. There will be 11 chapters: maps, early settlement, neighborhoods, commercial businesses, city and other services, schools, religious buildings, University of Michigan, hospitals and *"Tree City"* open spaces.

WASHTENAW--A PUZZLING NAME FROM THE CHIPPEWA

There has been much disagreement about the meaning of the name of our county, Washtenaw.

In a talk printed in *Washtenaw Impressions* in December 1945, Attorney George J. Burke mentioned four explanations that had been put forth over the years. They were:

(1) *"No white people"*

(2) Any large stream or river, after an Indian of the same name living at the mouth of the river

(3) Wash-te-nong, or place of Washington, the Great Father

(4) Washtenong, *"the land beyond"* or "further off country."

In an editor's note, Emerson F. Greenman, then curator of the Division of Great Lakes in the University Museum of Anthropology, was reported to strongly favor the last one.

"The word is unmistakably from a Central Algonquian language and the literal translation, 'distant place' would serve as the equivalent of our homelier phrase, 'back country' to the Indians viewing it from the new settlements around Detroit," he said.

A Mr. R. V. Williams of Owosso, quoted in Chapman's 1881 county history, who claimed to speak Chippewa, an Algonquian language, agreed with the literal translation as *"further off country"* or *"the land beyond"* but said he didn't know how it came to be applied to our county because the Chippewa didn't. To them, Washtenong meant the area watered by the Grand River. Only a little of Washtenaw's Sharon Township drains into a branch of the Grand.

KAREN'S COLUMN

HOUSE NEWS: WCHS MUST RE-BID GRANT WORK, FINISH WORK BEGINS ON MUSEUM SHOP, UPPER ROOMS

We have been told by the Michigan Bureau of History that we need to rebid the work at the Museum that is to be paid for by our Historic Preservation Grant. It was bid previously in the fall. However, we received only one bid and it was about three times the cost of the grant.

Back to square one! Quinn-Evans has been researching several alternative suggestions that we have had about how the walls might be patched. They are preparing an addendum to the previous bid document describing an alternate that will, hopefully, be cheaper than the process originally specified.

Another change will be to have the bid structured so that each trade can bid separately. Again the bidding process will be done by Washtenaw County government. It is frustrating because it seems so difficult to fit ourselves into the constraints of the granting agency.

On the other hand, it will be an achievement to obtain these funds for historic preservation. We'll stick with it and try to jump through all the hoops in the right order.

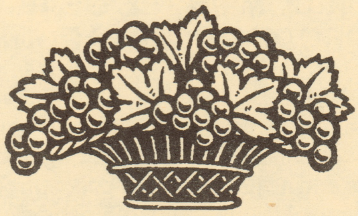
With the grant work being delayed we have now begun work on two other areas that were not to be dealt with under grant funds. Finishing the Museum Shop space is now underway.

As the carpenter began to tear into the west wall of the shop, he uncovered a door frame that we didn't know was there. It had been completely hidden, inside the plaster walls.

We will be looking at it, photographing and documenting it. You will hear more about it next month. Perhaps some more clues about the history of the house will be discovered by scrutinizing this "new" door.

Upstairs, two rooms are being painted. Again, finishing these rooms was not part of our original grant request. Sherwin-Williams donated four gallons of paint for the project. It is pretty exciting to see even a portion of the house completed!

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242



This issue of the *Washtenaw Impressions* is co-sponsored by:
Chelsea Milling Company
Home of Jiffy Mix
West North Street
Chelsea, Michigan 48118

WCHS PLANNING STAINED GLASS TOUR JUNE 13

Plans are being made for a stained glass tour of some Detroit churches for the annual bus tour Saturday, June 13. Watch for more details later.

'WHAT'S IT?' GAME, LOAN BOX OFFERED BY WCHS

WCHS offers traveling exhibits of small artifacts, set up as a humorous "What Is It?" game to schools for children and another for adults. They are available free for classes and meetings. Arlene took the game to Emerson School's third grade class in September.

Loan boxes, *"Life Before Electricity,"* and a new one, *"Hats to Spats"* are available to teachers for $15 rental charge. Information: Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple, $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

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February 15, 1998

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum on Main Street ***A Museum of County Life***
500 North Main Street **Post Office Box 3336**
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336 **(734) 662-9092**

The Washtenaw County Historical Society has items from our Museum Shop available for sale.
They will be available for purchase at our monthly General Meetings and also by mail for $3.00 postage and handling.
Profits from sales will go toward support of our Museum.

ANN ARBOR HEADLIGHT, SOUVENIR EDITION-1896 42 pp $10
A reprint of a magazine published by Michigan Central Railroad
with photos and information about Ann Arbor one-hundred years ago

ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY YEARS of HISTORY 150 pp $10
The Ann Arbor NEWS: 1835-1985 (donated to WCHS by the *Ann Arbor NEWS*)
Copies of selected front pages over the past 150 years

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY: 160 YEARS OF THE ANN ARBOR NEWS 128 pp $10
An album of the people and places within the *Ann Arbor News*
circulation area. Family photos were loaned for the project.
(donated to WCHS by the *Ann Arbor NEWS*)

ANN ARBOR: THE CHANGING SCENE *by Adam Christman* 151 pp $9
1983, paperback, illustrated. Personal memories of Ann Arbor,
the University of Michigan, Burns Park and gardening *circa* 1920-1950.
Originally published in the *Ann Arbor News* between late 1978 and March 1981.
Reprinted by the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation

VIEW OF A UNIVERSE: *by Milo Ryan* 211 pp $10
A LOVE STORY OF ANN ARBOR AT MIDDLE AGE
Delightful personal account of an Irish American family in
Ann Arbor before World War I.
1985, paperback, illustrated by William Shurtliff.
Published by the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission

HISTORIC BUILDINGS: ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 232 pp $15
by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg
Second edition, reprinted with slight revisions, 1998
by the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation and the
Ann Arbor Historic District Commission

BIRDSEYE MAP OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN - 1880 24 by 30 inches $10
rolled and boxed

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336
(734) 663-2379 (734) 662-9092

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For further information, call the Historical Society at 662-9092

SPRING 1998 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public unless indicated otherwise.

Sunday 2/15 **Program:** **"The Codori Farm and Family in Civil War Gettysburg"**
Location: Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor
Historian **Pam Newhouse** *presents the results of her recent research on the Codori Family Farm, located in the middle of the Gettysburg, PA, Civil War battleground. Refreshments will be served.*

Sunday 3/15 **Program:** **"The Development of America's Early Malls and Commercial Strips"**
Location: Arborland Consumer Mall, 3613 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor
Darin Von Stein, *graduate of the Historic Preservation Program, Eastern Michigan University, presents a detailed slide show of the history and evolution of the commercial strip, malls, and the development of store fronts in the mid-20th century. The presentation will be made at Ann Arbor's first strip mall. Refreshments will be served.*

Sunday 4/19 **Program:** **"Ypsilanti's Automotive Heritage"**
Location: Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum, Cross Street, Depot Town, Ypsilanti
Jack Miller, *curator, summarizes the history of the automobile industry in the Ypsilanti area, and conducts a personal tour through the Ypsilanti Historical Society's newest museum. Refreshments will be served.*

Saturday 4/25 **Antiques Appraisals** by DuMouchelle Galleries
Location: *to be announced* 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fee for appraisal: $10 oral / $15 written

Wednesday 5/20 **Annual Meeting,** **6 p.m.** Pot Luck Dinner precedes Program.
Program and location: *To be announced.*

Saturday 6/13 **Annual Field Trip:** **"Stained Glass Windows in Detroit, Michigan"**
Barbara Krueger, *coordinator of the Michigan Stained Glass Census, narrates the tour of stained glass windows around the metropolitan area.* ***Fee includes all transportation from Ann Arbor, lunch, and entrance fees. Registration is required.***